

## IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION AIRPORTS

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Years of neglect under Saddam Hussein's rule, followed by further damage by looters, resulted in a country desperately in need of repair. USAID partner Bechtel's reconstruction efforts focus on rebuilding key infrastructure—a critical step in improving the lives of Iraqis. As part of Bechtel's \$1.03-billion contract, airports, seaports, roads, bridges, and railways are being rebuilt, allowing for the transport of humanitarian assistance, reconstruction material, and increased commerce. USAID partner Skylink has assessed three civilian airports in Iraq—Baghdad, Al Basrah, and Mosul.

### **Accomplishments**

- Over 316 military and NGO flights processing 3,395 passengers have arrived and departed smoothly at Baghdad International Airport since July.
- Completed emergency infrastructure work at Baghdad International Airport for civil air operations. Work included:
  - Repair of Terminal C and administration offices.
  - Building a security checkpoint and 240-car parking lot.
  - Installing VSAT communications systems and 6.5-megawatt power generators.
- Al Basrah International Airport nearly ready for commercial operations to begin. Projects have included:
  - Runway, taxiway, and apron striping.
  - Installing two baggage x-ray units.
  - Toilets, passenger lounges, signs, and baggage carts.
  - Installing VSAT satellite communications.
- Evaluation of reconstruction requirements at Mosul Airport completed.

### **Next Steps**

- Continue infrastructure work at Baghdad Airport, including:
  - Restoring substation 1 transformers and generators.
  - Replacing flood pumps.
  - Repairing sanitation facilities.
  - Rehabilitating control tower and building.
  - Restoring ventilation system, floors, ceilings, walls, customs departments, and security gates.
- Continue rehabilitation at Basrah Airport, including:
  - Repairing water and wastewater facilities.
  - Installing radio system for airport administration.
  - Installing perimeter and security fencing.
- Prepare to open Mosul airport to commercial traffic.

### **Issues**

- Immigration, customs, and security procedures have yet to be standardized and finalized.